

DRESSER LUGGAGE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1 1. Field of the Invention:
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3 The present invention relates to the field of travel luggage,
4 and more specifically concerns luggage that provides maximum
5 increase in capacity during a trip, allows it to be combined with
6 numerous other bags in a manageable fashion using an integral
7 luggage cart, but still is adapted by reason of size for use with
8 travel on commercial airliners. The airlines have rules that allow
9 luggage of a certain maximum size to be checked when checking in at
10 curbside or at the ticket counter. At present the size limitation
11 is a combined dimension not to exceed 63 inches. The luggage of
12 the present invention is sized to meet, but not exceed, that
13 maximum size permitted by the airlines under the present rules.
14 Notwithstanding its size, however, the inventive luggage is capable
15 of being handled readily by one person and can be pulled using its
16 unique variable position handle and large wheels or pushed using
17 its large wheels and smaller wheels that are a part of the
18 telescoping integral luggage cart. Alternatively, any additional
19 bags may be accommodated using the telescoping integral luggage
20 cart.

21 2. Description of the prior art:

22 Over the decades since travel by jet airliners became common
23 place, the luggage manufacturing industry has created product
24 designs that accommodate numerous different purposes, but still fit
25 within the rules established by the airlines. These include size
26 limitations for checked baggage, which the inventive luggage is

1 designed to meet despite its substantial capacity and capacity for
2 substantial expansion during the course of a journey.

3 The present invention includes numerous additional features.
4 The interior comprises, in part, a plurality of smaller bags,
5 preferably three, that can act as the drawers of a dresser on
6 removable shelves disposed on zippered connectors on the interior
7 sidewalls of the outer luggage. These bags have removable covers
8 to facilitate using them as drawers in the chest of drawers
9 configuration. These bags can also be removed to double the
10 capacity of the luggage for the return trip, or increase it by
11 either two-thirds or one-third. Transporting these additional bags
12 is made convenient because of the large sized telescoping integral
13 luggage cart with steerable wheels alluded to earlier. Other
14 features include an externally accessible freshen kit, a small
15 externally accessible drawer, coat hooks on the handle, externally
16 visible identification plaques on both front and back, a swiveling
17 handle bar on the handle to make a temporary closet bar, large curb
18 climbing wheels, an integral fold out table, an externally visible
19 large figure digital travel alarm clock, an externally accessible
20 pouch, and the like.

21 None of the references disclosed by a prior art search
22 commissioned by the inventor combines significant numbers of the
23 inventive features. However, one feature that is quite common in
24 the prior art is the concept of using a chest of drawers in
25 combination with luggage. See for example, Betts, U.S. Patent No.
26 2,891,639, Madison, U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 317,082, Blevins,

1 U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 315,986, Mayer, U.S. Patent No.
2 3,891,230, Tullis, et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,974,898, Goldstone,
3 U.S. Patent No. 4,813,521, Hawley, U.S. Patent No. 4,966,258 and
4 Disney, U.S. Patent No. 1,609,348. Also some interest is Buchek,
5 U.S. Patent No. 4,066,155.

6 Various kinds of luggage carts and trolleys are shown by other
7 prior art references, although none duplicate the capacity and
8 simplicity of that aspect of the present invention. Examples of
9 these prior art references include Cassimally, U.S. Patent No.
10 3,960,252, Cassimally, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,273,222, Williams,
11 et al. U.S., Patent No. 4,538,709 and Thomas, U.S. Patent No.
12 4,792,025.

13 Several references show handles that bear superficial
14 resemblance to the handle of the present invention, and these are
15 Dababneh, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2003/0132080
16 A1 and Sadow, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S.
17 2003/0085540 A1. However, neither of these references show more
18 than one or two features of the handle on the present invention.

19 Further references show various single aspects of the present
20 invention. A first examples is Thomas, U.S. Patent No. 4,609,084
21 showing retrieval of what could be a freshen kit from a pre-
22 determined location. Pohl, U.S. Patent Application Publication No.
23 U.S. 2002/0195303 A1 teaches a table and combination with the
24 luggage, as does Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,941,352 and Martin, U.S.
25 Patent No. 5,437,367. Kinzer, et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,076,641
26 teaches large curb climbing wheels. Gibley, U.S. Patent No.

1 5,056,695 teaches an identifying license plate in combination with
2 luggage art, and Baker, U.S. Patent No. 4,647,056 shows a clock in
3 combination with luggage.
4

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

6 Bearing in mind the foregoing, it is a principal object of the
7 present invention to provide a large capacity piece of luggage that
8 provides a plurality of passenger convenience features, none of
9 which all found in a single prior art reference.

10 Another principal object of the present invention is to
11 provide a piece of luggage that has greatly expandable capacity
12 through the use of interior bags with removable covers that act as
13 drawers and can be taken out of the dresser luggage, the covers
14 replaced to convert them to luggage again, to carry additional
15 items in excess of those which are placed in the parent bag after
16 the removal of these other bags.

17 A related object of the present invention is to equip the
18 interior of the parent bag with removable shelves that have
19 zippered connections to the side walls of said bag to support the
20 drawers.

21 A further object of the invention is to provide an integral
22 large capacity telescoping luggage cart with steerable wheels for
23 the carrying of additional bags.

24 An additional object of the invention is to provide a multi-
25 function variable position handle that can be use for pulling or
26 pushing the invention, has clothing hooks disposed thereon, and has

1 a swing out member that can be used as a closet bar to hang
2 clothing thereupon.

3 Another object of the invention is to provide an integral fold
4 out table stored beneath the cover of the dresser luggage.

5 Other objects of the invention are to provide an externally
6 accessible freshen kit and utility drawer in combination with the
7 foregoing objects and advantages.

8 A further object of the invention is to provide an externally
9 visible large figure digital travel alarm clock flush with the
10 external surface of the luggage.

11 An additional object of the invention is to provide large curb
12 climbing wheels in combination with the foregoing.

13 Another object of the invention is to provide luggage
14 containing the foregoing features with externally visible
15 identification plaques.

16 One more object of the invention is to provide a storage pouch
17 on the exterior of the dresser luggage for quick storage of small
18 flat items such as magazines and newspapers.

19 Other objects and advantages will become apparent to those
20 skilled in the art upon referenced to the following descriptions
21 and the appended drawings.

22 In accordance with a principal aspect of the present
23 invention, there is provided large capacity luggage that complies
24 with the maximum size requirements of the airlines. The invention
25 includes a plurality of user convenience features. Among these are
26 a variable position handle with infinite variations that can be

1 used to either pull or push the luggage on two large curb climbing
2 wheels. In addition, the handle can rotate in a horizontal plane
3 from one of its supporting vertical members to provide a closet rod
4 for hanging clothes from hangers. The handle also includes hooks
5 to hang clothes from. A further aspect of the invention includes
6 a telescoping integral luggage cart with steerable auxiliary
7 wheels. Other features include fixed, but removable identification
8 plaques that are externally visible, an externally visible large
9 figure digital travel alarm clock, an integral fold out table
10 disposed within the cover of the luggage and supported thereby, and
11 an externally accessible freshen kit and utility drawer. The
12 invention further includes a chest of drawers feature which allows
13 interior bags to be used either as drawers or to be removable from
14 the parent bag and used as separate luggage to double the capacity
15 of the original piece of luggage. Finally, on the back of the
16 luggage is a pouch type of an enclosure similar to that which are
17 on the backs of front car seats which may be accessed from the
18 upper side to store a newspaper, magazines and the like.

19 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Various other objects, advantages and features of the present
21 invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the
22 following description taken in conjunction with the appended
23 drawings, in which:

24 Figure 1 is a front overhead perspective view of the present
25 invention showing its variable position handle in its rest
26 position.

1 Figure 2 is a rear overhead perspective view showing the
2 variable position handle in a vertical position.

3 Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the invention with
4 insets that enlarge two of its features.

5 Figure 4 is a front overhead perspective view of the present
6 invention illustrating a third use of the variable position handle
7 as a closet rod.

8 Figure 5 is a front elevational view of the invention with its
9 front opened revealing its chest of drawers internal structure and
10 integral fold out table.

11 Figure 6 is a right side elevational view of the present
12 invention showing the deployment of the integral fold out table and
13 the middle drawer opened.

14 Figure 7 is a front overhead perspective view of the invention
15 as shown in figure 5 illustrating the structure and support of the
16 integral fold out table.

17 Figure 8 features the zip out shelves that support the drawers
18 in the chest, but are removable when the parent dresser luggage is
19 desired to be used without dividers.

20 Figure 9 shows how the large wheels facilitate climbing curbs.

21 Figures 10A and 10B are left side elevational views showing
22 the luggage in its normal vertical configuration contrasting with
23 deployment of the telescoping integral luggage cart having
24 steerable wheels.

25 Figure 11 is a front overhead perspective view of the fully
26 deployed telescoping integral luggage cart seen in figure 10B.

1 Figure 12 is a left side elevational view of the fully
2 deployed telescoping integral luggage cart as seen in figure 10B
3 except for a substantial number of additional bags being
4 accommodated thereon.

5 Figure 13 is a front overhead perspective view which
6 illustrates the storage and removal of the externally accessible
7 freshen kit with the kit itself shown in perspective view in the
8 inset beneath which are front elevational and side elevational
9 views thereof.

10 Figure 14 is also an overhead front perspective view featuring
11 the opened externally accessible utility drawer.

12 Figure 15 is a left side elevational view of the inventive
13 luggage being pulled by a traveler and illustrates use of the rear
14 mounted pouch.

15 Finally, figure 16 is a front overhead perspective view
16 showing three internal drawers being used as three separate
17 suitcases and illustrating the capacity of the luggage can be
18 increased by one-third, two-thirds or even doubled.

19 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

20 As required, detailed embodiments of the present invention are
21 disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the
22 disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the invention which
23 may be embodied in various forms. Therefore, specific structural
24 and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted
25 as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a
26 representative basis for teaching one that is skilled in the art to

1 variously employ the present invention in virtually any
2 appropriately detailed structure.

3 Reference is now made to the drawings, wherein like
4 characteristics and features of the present invention are shown in
5 the various figures and designated by the same referenced numerals.

6 Figure 1 is a front overhead perspective view of the preferred
7 embodiment of the present invention 10 in an upright and closed
8 configuration. Seen are top side wall 12, top fixed handle 14,
9 infinitely variable position handle 16, pivoting cross bar 18,
10 right side wall 20, side handle 22, externally accessible utility
11 drawer 24, zippered freshen kit closure 26, and hard surfaced and
12 zippered main compartment closure 28. Externally accessible
13 utility drawer 24 is lockable, but the locking means are
14 conventional and not shown. Main compartment closure 28 is a
15 pivotally attached to the invention 10 at hinge 30. Inventive
16 dresser luggage 10 is transportable using a pair of large diameter
17 wide track rubber covered wheels 32 with steel rims which are
18 recessed into wheel wells and flush with the outer side surface of
19 dresser luggage 10 at 34. A further feature visible in figure 1 is
20 a fixed position, but removable, name, address and telephone number
21 front identification plaque 36 which is preferably permanently
22 embossed, surrounded by protective ridge 38 and which can only be
23 removed using fasteners 40.

24 Figure 2 is a rear overhead perspective of the inventive
25 dresser luggage 10 showing its variable position handle 16 in a
26 vertical position and supported by left vertical member 42 and

1 right vertical member 44 which connect to pivoting cross bar 18.
2 The pivoting cross bar has locking means (not shown) which allow
3 variable position handle to be located and locked into position at
4 any location. An alternative location for pushing rather than
5 pulling luggage as illustrated in figure 12. Also seen in this
6 rear view are rear identification plaque 46, left sidewall 48, rear
7 sidewall 50, the latter supporting expandable pouch 52, and large
8 figure digital travel alarm clock 56.

9 Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the dresser luggage 10.
10 Variable position handle 16 supported on pivoting cross bar 18 and
11 in part by right vertical member 44. Variable position handle 16
12 is the supporting means for coat hooks 54, the nature of which is
13 readily seen in an enlarged view in the inset of figure 3A. Also
14 seen in figure 3 is an externally visible large figure digital
15 travel alarm clock 56. Also seen is rear identification plaque 46
16 which is shown in the figure 3B inset to include name, address and
17 telephone number, surrounded by protective ridge 38 and held by
18 fasteners 40.

19 Figure 4 is an overhead front perspective view of dresser
20 luggage 10, which shows that variable position handle 16, can
21 rotate in a horizontal plane from right vertical member 44,
22 separated from left vertical member 42, to become a temporary
23 closet rod 58, supporting conventional wire hangers 60, on which
24 are hung garments 62, while another garment 64, is hung on coat
25 hook 54, as also seen commencing in figure 3.

1 Figure 5 shows that when main compartment closure 28 is opened
2 it reveals a chest of drawers 68 each having individual handles 70.
3 As will be later seen in regard to figure 16, each of these are
4 individual suitcases whose tops are removable when they are used as
5 drawers as seen in figure 5. Figure 5 also features the integral
6 fold out table 72, supporting such things as garments 74 in close
7 proximity to the chest of drawers 68. The integral fold out table
8 72, is contained in the inner surface main compartment closure 28
9 and has a supporting strut 76.

10 Integral fold out table 72 supporting garments 74 and its
11 supporting strut 76, can be more readily seen in figure 6. Note
12 that the user is reaching into drawer 68 to which is attached
13 handle 70.

14 Figure 7 further illustrates the construction of integral fold
15 out table 72 with supporting strut 76 all mounted to main
16 compartment closure 28, all adjacent to chest of drawers 68 with
17 individual handles 70.

18 Figure 8 shows chest of drawers 68 has been removed and that
19 they are supported by individual shelves 78. Shelves 78 are
20 removably connected to left sidewall 48 and right sidewall 20 using
21 interior zipper track 80 and shelf zipper tract 82 which are
22 selectively combined upon shelf 78 installation using zipper 84.

23 Figure 9 is to illustrate the curb climbing capability of the
24 large wheels 32. Sidewalk 86 is separated from street 88 by curb
25 90. Wheels 32 project outwardly from bottom 92 and also from back

1 panel 50 to facilitate the curb 90 climbing capability of the
2 invention.

3 One of the unique features of the present invention 10 is a
4 telescoping integral luggage cart that it is illustrated in both
5 its recessed, figure 10A, and deployed, figure 10B modes. In
6 figure 10A, the cart is nested in cavity 94, and is invisible
7 except for cart wheel 96 and cart fender 98. When fully deployed
8 as seen in figure 10B, cart wheel 96 and fender 98 represent the
9 leading edge of the telescoping integral baggage cart 100 comprised
10 of a plurality telescoping leaves, 102, 104, and 106. The
11 telescoping integral luggage cart 100 is capable of being deployed
12 as much as necessary up to its full length, not limited to three
13 leaves as presently shown, but need be deployed only a lesser
14 amount depending on the amount of additional luggage to be carried.
15 See figure 12. In the mode shown in figure 12, the combination of
16 the dresser luggage 10 and telescoping integral luggage cart 100
17 designed to be pushed by the user as shown in figure 12, with the
18 cart wheels 96 being steerable to accommodate going around corners
19 by differential pressure being applied to handle 16.

20 Figure 11 is a front overhead perspective view of the dresser
21 luggage 10 and fully deployed telescoping integral luggage cart 100
22 showing the three telescoping leaves 102, 104, and 106. Also seen
23 are fender 98 and a portion of cart wheel 96.

24 Figure 12, as alluded to above, shows the utilitarian nature
25 of telescoping integral baggage cart 100 with four additional bags
26 supported thereby. While the bags shown are various shapes, they

1 could just as well be bags that comprise the three drawers of
2 figures 5 and 16.

3 Figure 13 features the freshen kit 108 that is externally
4 accessible inside freshen kit closure 26. The inset to figure 13,
5 shows an enlarged view of freshen kit 108 below which is an end
6 view and a front view of same. Freshen kit 108 has a zippered
7 closure 110 and its own handles 112 so that it readily can be
8 carried to a restroom or bathroom separate from the dresser luggage
9 10. Freshen kit 108 is often referred to as a "dopp kit" and
10 contains toiletries and other cosmetic accessories.

11 Figure 14 shows the utility drawer 24 in an opened
12 configuration. This drawer can be used for the storage of keys,
13 cell phones, wallets, travel tickets, passports, etc. and is
14 lockable by conventional means which are not shown.

15 Figure 15 shows that pouch 52 is expandable to accommodate a
16 plurality of items, possibly including magazines and newspapers,
17 travel documents, and tickets. These items are inserted into the
18 top of pouch 52 in the same manner as the pocket on the back of an
19 automobile car seat.

20 Turning finally to figure 16, the capability of doubling the
21 cargo carrying capability is illustrated. The three drawers 68
22 shown in figure 5 come equipped with tops 108 which are attachable
23 to drawers 68 by zippered closures 110 to form three small
24 suitcases 112, 114, and 116. The effect of this is to double the
25 capacity of dresser luggage 10 while still having the capability
26 using telescoping integral luggage cart 100 shown in figures 10B,

1 11, and 12 to keep all four bags together. Of course as
2 illustrated in figure 8, shelves 78 are removable using zipper 84.
3 Thus large items that would not fit in suitcases 112, 114, and 116
4 can be disposed within dresser luggage 10.

5 While the invention has been described, disclosed, illustrated
6 and shown in various terms or certain embodiments of modifications
7 which has assumed in practice, the scope of the invention is not
8 intended to be, nor should it be deemed to be, limited thereby and
9 such other modifications or embodiments as may be suggested by the
10 teachings herein are particularly reserved especially as they fall
11 within the breadth and scope of the claims here appended.